

# The **Tigers' Roar**

April 2009

SGC Faculty & Staff Newsletter



*South Georgia College enters a new era this month, as we inaugurate Dr. Virginia Carson as President.*



The pivotal event is Thursday, April 23, at 2 pm in McGouirk Auditorium, located in Peterson Hall. However, SGC will roll out the red carpet for other activities that week.

Frankie Snow will kick-off the inaugural schedule with a Bird Lecture and Exhibit on Monday, April 20, at 4 pm in the William S. Smith Library. At 7 pm that same day, a joint concert by the CHS Show Choir and SGC Chorus will be held in McGouirk Auditorium.

The 16th Annual Student Support Services Awards will be presented at a 12.30 pm program on Tuesday, April 21, in the Peterson Hall Art Gallery, with a reception following in the lobby. A SGC Art Showcase begins at 5 pm that day, with a repeat performance from the CHS Show Choir and SGC Chorus at 7 pm.

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*The Trustees, Faculty, Staff,*

*Students and Alumni of*

*South Georgia College*

*Request the honor of your presence at*

*The Inauguration of*

*Dr. Virginia Carson*

*As the Seventh President of South Georgia College*

*Thursday, the twenty-third of April*

*Two thousand and nine*

*At two o'clock in the afternoon*

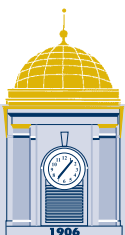
*McGouirk Auditorium in Peterson Hall*

*100 West College Park Drive*

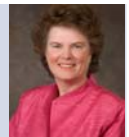
*Douglas, Georgia*



*Reception immediately following ceremony*



## *Inauguration*



## From the President



*Dr. Virginia Carson*

*This is my favorite time of year with all the azaleas and dogwoods in full bloom...*

We are very lucky to have such a scenic campus. I would be remiss if I did not recognize our grounds crew for the fantastic job they perform in keeping our campus so lovely.

April is a very important month for SGC. The Tiger Preview Day will bring students from our targeted recruitment areas to campus, and we will have other important visitors for Honors Day and the Inauguration. The SACS response report is also due. Clearly, this is a defining time for the College.

I am personally very excited about the wide array of activities the planning committee has set for the week of Inauguration. This really is about the College, and sharing with fellow institutions and the community all we have to offer. I hope each of you appreciates the educational and other benefits we do indeed nurture in our beautiful setting in the heart of south Georgia.

Best of luck as you wrap-up this academic year and prepare your students to enter the next phase in their lives.

## Tiger Preview Day April 4

Tiger Preview Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, at South Georgia College. This event will bring prospective residential students from the targeted recruitment areas of Bryan, Liberty, Houston and Wayne counties to SGC.

Parents and students will learn important information about the admissions process, including financial aid and scholarship requirements, during a short presentation. They will also be able to visit a number of booths highlighting campus activities. One lucky high school senior will take home a \$500 scholarship.

Tiger Preview Day begins at 11 am, with the scholarship awarded at noon. A tour of the campus will be followed by lunch on the lawn. Attendees will receive free tickets to the SGC baseball game at 1 pm and softball game at 2 pm. Participants will also be given a free SGC T-shirt. Interested students are asked to RSVP by emailing [admissions@sgc.edu](mailto:admissions@sgc.edu).

## HONORS ASSEMBLY April 15

South Georgia College will celebrate Honors Day at 12 noon on Wednesday, April 15, in McGouirk Auditorium, Peterson Hall.

The ceremony will spotlight some of the College's most outstanding students and student organizations. Students will be recognized for their achievement, talent, dedication, success, and service.

The College's academic divisions will recognize one or more students who have excelled in their disciplines. Leading athletes will be honored, and the 2009 recipients of Who's Who will be named. Students who have achieved the highest academic averages in the freshman and sophomore classes will be honored, and the results of student voting for Best All-Around will be revealed.

Family, friends, and fellow students are encouraged to join the faculty and staff in honoring these students at this assembly. A reception will follow.

## ! Emergency Planning Drills

The next step in SGC's emergency planning preparedness is to hold test drills. Over the next few months, there will be several drills to ensure proper response in the event of a real emergency.

The first drill will be held Friday, April 17. This exercise will help the Administration, Task Force, and Building Coordinators ensure the communication plan works. In June, SGC will hold a test involving students. If you have any additional questions, please contact Jim Folds at ext. 4387 or see your Building Coordinator.

## Inauguration *continued*

On Wednesday, April 22, the Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon features Susan Driscoll of Ignition, Inc. at 11:45 am in Engram Union Ballroom. At 2 pm, *Waiting for Godot* will be shown in Room 142 of Peterson Hall. A Tree Planting Ceremony, in conjunction with Earth Day, will mark the planting of a tree in Dr. Carson's honor at 4:30 pm.

SGC will close at 12:15 pm Thursday, April 23. Faculty and staff who are marching in the Procession are asked to gather in Peterson Hall at 1:30 pm to robe and/or line up for the Inauguration Ceremony. A reception will follow on the front lawn, or in Clower Center in case of inclement weather.

Two showings of *Waiting for Godot* will take place at 7 pm Thursday and Friday, April 23 and 24, in Room 142, Peterson Hall. For more details, visit [www.sgc.edu/inauguration](http://www.sgc.edu/inauguration).

The use of technology in instruction will continue to develop in coming years. GeorgiaVIEW Vista is one tool that will help facilitate this growth.

GeorgiaVIEW Vista is a statewide project that began in 2002, when an initial statewide license was purchased for Vista 1.0. From that beginning, the current Vista environment was released on the South Georgia College campus in June 2005. At that time, SGC had one course with five active users.

The latest statistics for the current term show that SGC has 74 active courses with 930 active users. These numbers include the College's Americus, Valdosta and Waycross locations. Of the 74 courses, 15 are fully online, eight are partially online and three are hybrids. The partial and hybrid courses combine traditional classroom instruction with online instruction.

The new system will be ready for use beginning with the fall 2009 term. Already, an initial kick-off meeting has been held, describing the project and sharing information on what to expect. SGC has created an internal website, <http://faculty.sgc.edu/georgiaview>, with project details and training materials.

On April 6, the College will host on-site training provided by OIIT. The training will be hands-on and give faculty members a chance to work in the new interface. After the training, SGC will continue efforts to ensure that the courses are ready when the students arrive in August.

## Utilizing Technology in the Learning Environment

### Learn to 'Manage Your Message' on April 30

South Georgia College Continuing Education is pleased to announce that Ed Nichols, President of Nichols Consulting, will be conducting a seminar titled "Managing Your Message" on April 30. This full-day class is designed to improve writing and speaking skills. The morning session is devoted to reviewing and practicing good business writing. The afternoon session involves the class participants in actual practice speaking roles.

"Managing Your Message" has been conducted by Ed Nichols at several other Georgia colleges recently. It is recognized as a proven way to improve writing and speaking skills in just one day. The cost is \$99. Lunch is not included in the price, but available for purchase in the SGC dining hall. The seminar will be held in the small dining room in the Engram Union.

To register, contact the Department of Continuing Education at 260-4272 or by email at [coned@sgc.edu](mailto:coned@sgc.edu).

## Lady Tigers Fighting for Play-off Berth

The SGC Lady Tigers have had a difficult 2009 campaign, but they are starting to pull things together with the bulk of the softball conference schedule remaining.

The team took off on a four-day, six-game road trip that began March 20, with a double-header against Georgia Perimeter. Those two games were the worst of the trip for SGC; they lost 6-1 and 11-0.

SGC split games with Young Harris March 22. The Lady Mountain Lions won the first game 7-5. The Lady Tigers responded by winning game two by the same score. SGC scored four runs in the top of the seventh to overcome a 5-3 deficit.

The Lady Tigers faced Truett McConnell in Cleveland March 23, and won game one 11-5 behind the pitching of Jessica Cooper and a potent offense. They came up short in game two, losing 7-6 in extra innings.

SGC is 2-8 in conference play after losing to Middle Georgia on March 25, with 10 conference games left. The Lady Tigers play FCCJ in non-conference action April 4 in Douglas.



Scott Groover

## Groover, Collins pick up Tiger Baseball Team



The last couple of weeks have been laden with heroics for the SGC Tigers baseball team.

First of all, SGC starter Scott Groover threw the first no-hitter in 18 years for the Tigers in a 7-0 win over the Glen Oaks Community College Vikings on March 11. Groover shut down the Vikings from the first pitch of the contest, and had a perfect game through 4 1/3 innings.

“He was around the strike zone all day. It was good for him to turn in that kind of performance,” said SGC head coach Scott Sims.

The SGC defense played very well behind Groover, though there weren’t any really close plays; not for 6 2/3 innings anyway. Groover retired Mike Huling to lead off the top of the seventh. Jared Rose reached first on a walk. Ethan Houck hit into a fielder’s choice, and Rose was forced out. That left Houck on first with two outs. Groover then plunked Pete Guerra, putting runners on first and second with two outs. Glenn Batteast came up next and he nearly spoiled Groover’s day. Batteast picked out a pitch he liked and lofted a floater to the right side of the infield. It wasn’t hit hard and looked for a moment like it might fall between second and first. But first baseman Lee Hall played the ball perfectly and made a superb diving catch to preserve the no-hitter.

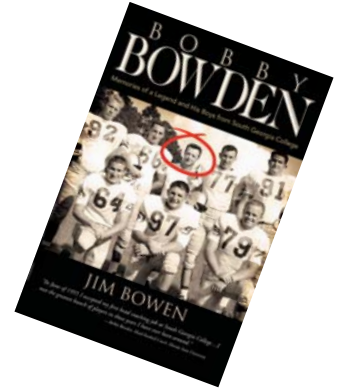
“It was a tough play. It was the best play of the game,” said Coach Sims. Groover struck out six and walked three.

Eleven days later, on March 22, Brandon Collins laced a bases-loaded, walk-off single to defeat the FCCJ Stars 3-2. Collins stepped up for the Tigers the day after losing 15-3 to FCCJ in Jacksonville. The Tigers scored in the third and fifth to knot the game at two. Neither team scored until the bottom of the ninth. Cason Mobley, FCCJ’s third pitcher of the afternoon, started the ninth inning. Mobley promptly hit Andrew Anderson and Zack Kilday to put runners on first and second with nobody out. Stuart Drew advanced both runners with a sacrifice bunt. With one out and Anderson at third and Kilday at second, Mobley intentionally walked Keenan Ivey to load the bases. That brought Collins up to bat. With the outfield drawn in, Collins drove the ball to the fence to score Anderson for the winning run.

After losing three games to Truett McConnell on March 29-30, the Tigers are 19-20 on the season.

## Author & Alumnus Jim Bowen Visits Campus

*Shares Book on Bobby Bowden Years at SGC*



“Coach Bowden was convinced that God brought him to South Georgia College in 1955. He never applied for a job; he was always asked to come to every school he’s served as head coach. President Smith asked him to come to South Georgia, and Coach Bowden says that coming to South Georgia College was the best move he ever made,” said Jim Bowen March 5 at the William S. Smith Library on the SGC campus.

Jim played football at SGC in 1956 and forged a life-long friendship with his then-head coach, Bobby Bowden. That Coach Bowden began his head coaching career in Douglas at SGC is no secret; however, the details of those four years have remained somewhat obscure, until now.

Jim has written an early-years’ biography of Coach Bowden titled *Bobby Bowden: Memories of a Legend and His Boys from South Georgia College*. The book was published in late 2008, and Jim visited

**Jim Bowen:** (left) signs his book on Bobby Bowden, as Becky Wehmeier looks on, at the William S. Smith Library and (above) prepares to throw out the first pitch at the Tigers baseball game against Darton College on Crider Field.

Douglas to discuss the book and autograph copies for anyone interested in purchasing one. The event was sponsored by the SGC Office of Advancement and the Cultural Events Committee.

After speaking at the Exchange Club at noon and throwing out the first pitch at the SGC Tigers’ game against Darton College that afternoon, Jim conducted the book-signing inside the library, which bears the name of the SGC president who asked Coach Bowden to take over the Tigers’ football program 54 years ago.

“Playing for Coach Bowden was a life-changing experience for me,” said Jim. “Coach Bowden set an excellent example for his players, and he taught us how to be leaders.”

In those early years, Jim says his coach led a hectic life. He was raising a young family, and

had his hands full on campus. In addition to coaching football and holding the title of athletic director, Bowden also had to teach classes and coach basketball and baseball.

“He worked three part-time jobs to make ends meet. He had one assistant football coach, but no assistants in the other sports,” said Jim.

Still, Bowden won 22 games over those four years; when he departed SGC following the 1958 football season, he had accumulated a winning record.

Jim and his wife Dell reside in Louisville, Kentucky.



Copies of *Bobby Bowden: Memories of a Legend and His Boys from South Georgia College* may be purchased at the SGC Library or the Office of Advancement.

# SGC Hosts Spring Break Alcohol Awareness Program

*April 11, 1997, was the most significant day in Eric Krug's life.*



It was his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, the day he finally became “legal.” However, that is not why it was so important.

That night, hours after playing in a baseball game for the Oglethorpe University Stormy Petrels against the West Georgia Wolves, Eric made a decision that changed his life forever. It seemed so routine, so minor. Eric and a friend, Tim, had celebrated after the ball game. It was late and they were heading back to campus. A friend had called a cab for Eric and Tim. Before they hopped in the cab, a few more friends drove up and said they would give them a ride.

Eric and Tim sat down inside the vehicle, which was being driven by Tim’s girlfriend, who had been drinking. They were almost at their destination, just a few hundred yards away, when the driver ran into a tree. The accident killed Tim and left Eric critically injured.

Eric survived, but he wasn’t the same. The crash severed his right arm (which doctors reattached), broke his neck, fractured his skull in two places, and damaged each of the lobes of his brain. Doctors did not think he would survive. Against the odds, he did, though his life today is drastically different than it was then.

On March 17, Eric and his mother, Joyce, visited South Georgia College to share their story, “Deadly Decisions,” as part of the College’s Alcohol Awareness activities. Eric can no longer speak. However, his mother speaks for him, relating to the audience what Eric went through in his own words. She also discusses the accident and Eric’s ongoing road to recovery

from her perspective. It’s a powerful and tragic, yet touching, presentation.

Though Eric has no memory of the accident, he is fully aware of his condition and how he came to be so confined. He spent 11 months in a low level coma and battled high fevers, pneumonia and staph infections. He “ate” through a feeding tube.

*continued on page 7*



*Members of the South Georgia College Tigers baseball team and head coach Scott Sims stand with Eric Krug following the “Deadly Decisions” program March 17 at SGC. Eric, a former baseball player at Oglethorpe University, was seriously injured in a drunk driving accident on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in 1997. Today, Eric can’t speak, uses a walker and has almost no use of his right arm.*

## Alcohol Awareness

*continued from previous page*

Eric remained on the brink of death for weeks after the accident.

After Eric emerged from the coma in October 1998, his family began caring for him.

“We were his best therapists,” said Joyce of Eric’s sister and herself.

The therapy was extensive and agonizing. But Eric made progress. He had to re-train his body and re-learn the alphabet.

Eric required constant care. His parents sold their house and built a new home that was more accessible for their son. They had to feed and bathe him, and he wore adult diapers. When he came out of the coma, his brain functioned at a first grade level. Once he re-mastered the alphabet, he could spell.

These days, Eric types on a handheld computer that does the speaking for him. He still cannot use his right arm and needs a walker. At times, he must use a wheelchair.

Despite the extent of his injuries, Eric is remarkably cognizant of everything around him. His body is still recovering and he hopes to one day be able to speak again. The accident has been very hard on Eric, said Joyce.

“He’s lost himself. It’s had a horrible impact on him. He lost a best friend, a teammate and a roommate. He lives each day with a lot of regret,” she said. “I don’t want anyone else to go through this. This was avoidable. It wasn’t on Eric’s radar. He just went out to celebrate.”

Through his mother, he said that he remembered being in school and attending assemblies just like the one at SGC.

“Sometimes I listened, sometimes I didn’t,” he said through Joyce.

Eric’s desire now isn’t that people feel sorry for him; rather, it’s that they will listen to his message and avoid making the same mistake he did.

“Don’t drink, drink and drive, or get into a car with someone who has been drinking,” he said through Joyce.



### **Top/DRUNK GOGGLES**

*On March 18, students saw the effects of driving drunk by operating a golf cart with “drunk goggles” – a pair of goggles that distorts vision much the same way drinking too much does. Zack Kilday attempts to maneuver a cone while SGC Student Activities Coordinator Josey Cameron rides shotgun.*

### **Bottom/LOCAL CELEBRITY**

*Alcohol Awareness activities kicked off on March 15, with a performance by “Local Celebrity” at the Clower Center. This band features Matt Hosack (bass), son of Donna Hosack, SGC’s Student Life Assistant.*

# Happy Birthday!

APRIL



5

Tom Smith

10

Aleta Gass

Melissa Peacock

17

Fannie Poole

13

Karen Baskin

Claude Jones

14

Amy Hancock

19

Jane Baars

21

Mike Paine

25

Mary Benek

Melissa Howell

26

Frankie Snow

27

Donzella Stinson

30

Tiffany Briceno

# SGC April ANNIVERSARIES



## MILESTONES



19 Years

**Angela Nuga**

## FIRST 10



1 Year

**Lisa Mancil**

7 Years

**Krista Smith**



# April CALENDAR

4

**Tiger Preview Day**

7

Executive Vice  
Chancellor

**Susan Herbst's  
Visit**

15

**Honors Assembly**  
12 noon  
McGouirk Auditorium  
Peterson Hall

17

**Coffee County  
Relay for Life**

*Support the SGC Team by  
joining or making a donation  
on the SGC home page*

20-24

**INAUGURATION WEEK**

*(see page 1 story for events)*

29

**Last Day of Classes**

30

**Continuing Education  
Business Seminar**

9 am - 4 pm

Engram Union

Small Dining Room

**Final Exams Begin**

“

*Next in importance  
to freedom and  
justice is popular  
education, without  
which neither  
freedom nor justice  
can be permanently  
maintained.*

James A. Garfield  
(1880)

”